



"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



what's inside...

- President's Point of View
- 3 25th Annual Mardi Gras Auction
- 2018 Child Advocate of the Year
- 5 Event Highlights
- Program Highlights: CAC
- Program Highlights: CASA
- R CASA Open House
- Program Highlights: CAPE
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Helping Hands
- **12** Donor Acknowledgements



Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

"We are building **COMMUNITIES**where children are
free from abuse and neglect."

What Role Will You Play in Stopping Child Abuse and Neglect in 2018?

Each year, we look ahead to all that we are doing to work on our mission. However, we can't do it without YOU. We have strategic plans that will guide us through 2018 including:

- Amplifying the CASA program including Fostering Futures. We will continue our focus on the recruitment of new volunteers to train and serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). Fostering Futures will continue to be a part of our CASA program, focusing on assisting children 14-21 years of age, as they prepare to 'age out' of the foster care system through training and support.
- Expanding child abuse prevention education (CAPE) programs, offering new parenting series through community collaborations. We will continue our collaboration with Bay-Arenac ISD to offer additional opportunities for our evidence-based parenting series, "Make Parenting A Pleasure". In addition, more series will be offered through a successful partnership and grants through the Michigan Children's Trust Fund and local foundations.
- Strengthening partnerships through broadening of victim support services. Our Victim Services Coordinator, Brittany House, will increase the number of interns to be trained and utilized in victim follow-up as well as support and referrals to needed services.
- Further developing medical services to children in Saginaw County.
 We will work with local medical professionals to form an advisory team.
 We will hire a medical liaison to educate local medical professionals as well as provide medical examinations to suspected victims of sexual and severe physical abuse.
- Invigorating our advocacy efforts. This will take flight through a team
 of local retired legislators and public affairs experts.
- Implementing our newest fundraiser, Superhero Hockey Night with the Saginaw Spirit, to replace our past golf outing. After talking with our donors and past golfers, and reviewing the staff effort involved, we are pleased to choose this new exciting family and child-friendly event which honors local Superheroes! Catch up on the exciting night we had at our 2nd Annual Superhero Hockey Night on page 4!

As you read these few highlights of our plans for 2018, do you see a role for yourself? Do you have a few hours each month to volunteer? Have you thought about being a CASA volunteer, but have questions? Would you like to be a part of the solution? The great news is that there is a role for YOU! Discover your niche by calling one of our offices: Bay County: (989) 671-1345 or Saginaw County: (989) 752-7226 today!



Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

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CAN Talk is a quarterly publication of the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region and is distributed as a complimentary service to supporters and other professionals of Bay and Saginaw counties.

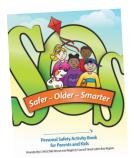
PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

Happy 2018! With the beauty of snow and the excitement of the New Year upon us, I'd like to share some specific ways that you can get involved in the coming months:

Be a CASA Volunteer! If you've been considering becoming a voice for a child in our foster care system, this is the time! There will be a training starting February 20th. To find out more, call Randy, CASA Program Director, at (989) 752-7226. We look forward to meeting you!



- **Public Awareness Volunteers:** Our Public Awareness plan includes promoting campaigns such as April's Child Abuse Prevention Month and *Pinwheels for Prevention*. If you'd like to get involved in a key part of stopping child abuse through raising our region's awareness, please call Samantha, Public Awareness Specialist, at (989) 671-1345. We would love to hear your ideas!
- **Advocate for Prevention Programming:** Take a moment to check if your child's elementary school has our Berenstain Bears Personal Safety Program (Kindergarten); Safer-Older-Smarter (SOS)



(1st – 3rd graders); Phone Etiquette (middle and high School), and Safe Baby, a program that utilizes infant simulators to teach future parents and current babysitters on ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome, instill current best practices in safe sleep for infants, and teaches them about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (high school). These are just a few of the FREE programs we offer throughout Bay and Saginaw counties. Call Vera, CAPE Program Director, at (989) 752-7226 to learn more!

If after reading our newsletter, you have thoughts to share or guestions to ask, please feel free to call me directly at: (989) 752-7226. I welcome all opportunities to chat with you!

With the protection of children in mind,

Suzanne Greenberg President/CEO











Full Member of the National Children's Alliance Accredited Member of the National CASA Association Designated Council for the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) and United Way of Bay & Saginaw Counties



Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. 🍁 Strolling dinner begins at 6 p.m. Fabulous auction items 🝁 Raffles THURSDAY

suar TICKETS PER PERSON

For information or tickets Call the CAN Council at (989) 752-7226

Purchase 10 tickets by February 9, 2018, and get a reserved table,



JOHN SPORSOR

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Michael T. Tribble Named 2018 Child Advocate of the Year

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region will honor **Mr. Michael T. Tribble** (Saginaw Township) as their 2018 Child Advocate of the Year. The award will be presented Thursday, February 22nd at Horizons Conference **Center** during the CAN Council's 25th Annual Mardi Gras Auction.

Since 2000, the CAN Council's *Child Advocate of the Year* award has annually honored an outstanding individual or group for being extraordinarily committed to making the Great Lakes Bay Region a better place for children and families. Past recipients include Richard J. Garber, William (Bill) McNally, the dental team of Paul W. Allen, DDS, the Honorable Faye M. Harrison, AGP & Associates, Inc., Al Doner of New Executive Mortgage, Chip Hendrick, President of R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc. and last year's honoree, Judy Zehnder of the Bavarian Inn Lodge.



Mr. Tribble is a long-time child advocate serving on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of the Great Lakes Bay Region. He was a dedicated board member and past president of the Boys & Girls Club of Saginaw County, a past chairperson and advisory board member of the CAN Council of Saginaw County, a United Way VITA program trainer, as well as a trustee for numerous community foundations. In addition, Mike served on the Boys & Girls Clubs National Board of Directors and the Home Builders Association, locally and statewide.

As an expert in tax and estate planning, Mike has assisted many local nonprofits for decades. As a way to combine two of his favorites – the Saginaw Spirit and the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region – Mike was the catalyst for the annual Superhero Hockey Night with the Saginaw Spirit, a benefit for the CAN Council.

With all of his community involvement and his love for our region, Mike has been recognized with several prestigious awards. These include the Thomas J. Thompson Award for outstanding service, the Jeremiah Milbank Society Award for outstanding leadership from Boys & Girls Club of America, and Saginaw Valley State University's Outstanding Alumni Award, just to name a few. However, anyone who knows Mike knows that his most treasured relationships and achievements is his family – Sharyl (wife), Emily (daughter), and Travis (son-in-law). It is the incredible love that they share that supports Mike in his community efforts.

"Mike's someone who is always energized by discovering new, exciting ways where he can partner to help protect our children. On top of his decades of support, Mike continues to prioritize children's best interests in his daily work. He truly is the best choice as our 2018 Child Advocate of the Year," said Suzanne Greenberg, CAN Council President/CEO.



Emily (daughter) & **Sharyl** (wife) were there when the CAN Council delivered the news.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 22nd, for the CAN Council's 25th Annual Mardi Gras Auction and join us in honoring Michael T. Tribble as our 2018 Child Advocate of the Year! Purchase your tickets securely online: cancouncil.org/mardi-gras-auction. Hurry, space is limited!



Use GoodSearch as your search engine and purchase goods through the *Network for Good*. Proceeds benefit the CAN Council.

Preventing Child Abuse is Far from Trivial

On October 24th, Frankenmuth's Bavarian Inn Lodge hosted 36 trivia-savvy teams all vying to eliminate child abuse and neglect. Friends and family cheered on such teams as **Drain Bamaged** and **Red Hot Trivia Peppers** as they all flexed their mental muscles in hopes of outquessing the competition during CAN Council's trivia night, The Brain Game.



Best Costume, tied for first: **Garber Gals**



Best Costume, tied for first: **Titanic Survivors**

This sold-out event wouldn't have been a success without generous supporters including Bavarian Inn Lodge, AGP & Associates, Inc., The Paris Academy, Emil Rummel Insurance, Duperon Corporation, Garber Management Group, Wildfire Credit Union, Frankenmuth Credit Union, Mike Young Buick GMC, Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, Schaeffer & Bierlein of Frankenmuth, Tri-Star Trust Bank, Saginaw Medical Federal Credit Union, Star of the West Milling Co., The White House Boutique, St. Mary's of Michigan's Field Neurosciences **Institute**, and **PepsiCo.** Thank you for sharing our belief that child abuse and neglect is unacceptable!



Professors of Piffle 1st Place



Patchwork Anamnesis 2nd Place



Silent, But Deadly 3rd Place

Preventing child abuse is far from trivial. All proceeds from this event benefitted CAN's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, providing highly-trained volunteers serving as the voice for children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect.

Not All Superheroes Wear Capes



Superheroes took over the ice at **The Dow Event Center** as the CAN Council celebrated its 2nd Annual Superhero Hockey Night with the Saginaw Spirit, presented by Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants, on December 28th. The Spirit donned special, one-of-akind Spiderman jerseys that were later auctioned off with proceeds benefiting the CAN Council and Saginaw Spirit Charitable Foundation.

This heroic evening was made possible by supporters including Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants, Duperon Corporation, AGP & Associates, Inc., Zentx Media Group, Kae Pankow, United Financial Credit Union, Thomas Township Firefighters Association, Dr. Gina Meylan, DDS, The State Bank, Spiderman, Supergirl, and Just Right DJ Joe.

The first 1,500 kids received a complementary Superhero cape and were encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero. Spiderman and Supergirl even took a night off to take pictures with adoring fans, but they weren't the only superheroes.





During the game, the CAN Council honored one child and one adult from the community who demonstrate outstanding commitment to protecting children. Marisa Carroll (child) and Maureen Fitzgerald (adult) are making a positive impact on the lives of children throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. Marisa is an avid community volunteer, working tirelessly for Western High School's LEO Club, Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, and Leader Dogs for the Blind. Maureen is a voice for children as the Lawyer Guardian Ad Litem in Bay County. She strives

to help foster children get all the services they so desperately need and is proactive with families to keep them together or to reunite them. Join us in congratulating, Marisa and Maureen, our Superheroes of the Year!

Joint Protocol Addendum Training

The last quarter of 2017 was a busy one for the CAN Council's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Program. CAN Council staff hosted 38 Saginaw County multi-disciplinary team (MDT) members on Thursday, October 19th, to learn more about the Joint Protocol Addendum for the child abuse and neglect protocol.

Shelly Marner, Director of the Saginaw County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), reviewed updates of Saginaw County's protocol and procedures for child abuse and neglect cases. Discussions surrounded situations in the Child Protection Law (CPL), unbiased and truth-seeking investigations, as well as accurate, fair, and just decision-making in the criminal justice and child welfare arenas that give primary consideration to the trauma effects and best interest of the children.

A special thanks to Shelly Marner and **Vickie Stuart** of the Saginaw County 9-1-1 Communications Authority, for their dedication and exceptional work in offering this training to our MDT members.

Educating Future Medical Professionals

On November 2nd, Cynthia K. Morley, CAN Council CAC Program Director, collaborated with **Dr. Tami Pobocik**, Associate Professor of Nursing at Saginaw Valley State University; Angela Aday, Community Engagement Director at the Underground Railroad; Michelle Most, Human Trafficking Coordinator/SME/ Forensic Nurse; and **Kristi Gregory**, Crisis Services Coordinator for Child & Family Services Sexual Assault Center to provide education to future medical professionals.

There were 81 medical students present to learn more about critically important topics such as human trafficking, SANE nursing, as well as the Sexual Assault program, and services of the CAN Council offered throughout the community. Students also learned what signs to look for when it comes to potential abuse and neglect of adults and children.



Be one of the first to see special announcements, local events, and community happenings.

"Like" the CAN Council Great Lakes **Bay Region** on Facebook!

CAN Council Pads Delta College Police Academy's Arsenal

Through an invitation of **Michael Goodall**, Basic Police Academy Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Training Center, the CAC Program was able to provide training for the Delta College Police Academy on November 29th.

CAN Council staff, Whitney Makowski and Brittany Nonamaker, Care Coordinators, and Cynthia K. Morley, CAC Program Director, presented to 21 recruits, providing information about CAN Council programs and services, and the work of the CAC both locally and throughout the state. The future officers also learned about trauma and the effects it has on the children and adults they may work with, as well as recognizing vicarious trauma they may experience personally. In closing, information was presented about Law Enforcement being First Responders and Minimal Fact Finding interviews.

"We believe having the opportunity to educate recruits is invaluable, as they learn more about working with children and families in our communities. We are providing them with great tools as they become exceptional Law Enforcement Officers," said Cynthia.

VOCA Funds CASA for the First Time

The CAN Council's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has received the **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)** funds for the next three years. With this dedicated support, the CASA Program has been given the opportunity to grow. A reoccurring recruitment plan has been established and implemented across both counties to identify and train much-needed CASA volunteers that will provide a voice for children in the court system due to abuse or neglect.

CASA Kids Celebrate Christmas

While most kiddos draft their wish lists and eagerly await Santa's arrival, children tied up in the court system have a much different view of the holidays. Some never experience the joy of opening presents on Christmas day or hanging ornaments they were so proud of making on the tree, yet this year was sure to be a little different.



In collaboration with the **Saginaw County Department of Health & Human Services**(**DHHS**), CASA children, parents, and foster parents all enjoyed an evening of fun and games, along

with pizza, punch, and cookies at this year's CASA/ DHHS Christmas Party. Santa Claus (**Kent Greenfelder**)

and his favorite elf Sprinkle McJingles (Emily Yeager) even took time out of their hectic holiday schedules to visit the party, graciously held at the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum.



On behalf of DHHS and the CAN Council, thank you to the many volunteers and all who donated blankets, quilts, hand-carved wooden toys, as well as knitted hats and mittens. This evening wouldn't have been possible without the \$1,000 grant from the **Bay Area Community Foundation's Elizabeth J. Husband Fund**; your support is truly appreciated!

Lifting Up A Child's Voice



The CASA Program held a Swearing-In Ceremony on November 13th with the **Honorable Barbara L. Meter,** Saginaw County Probate Court Judge. Please join us in welcoming

those sworn-in: **Darcy Hensel**, **Patricia Peters**, and **Samuel Yoder**. These invaluable individuals have already been assigned to a case, working with a child and their families who are under jurisdiction of the court in foster care. They are serving as the child's voice throughout the process, helping the child in a variety of ways.

I AM FOR THE CHILD



"I am a CAN Council CASA Volunteer because I want to be a supportive friend to a child during an unsure or scary time in their life."

Kristine SchaefferDedicated CASA Volunteer

CASA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Be someone a child can count on.

Start the application process to become a CASA for Bay or Saginaw County children.

Call the CASA Team today:

Bay County: (989) 671-1345 Saginaw County: (989) 752-7226



Ready to change a child's life? Become a CASA.



CAN Council Open House

Every abused or neglected child needs a caring, consistent adult to advocate for his or her wellbeing. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a volunteer who devotes time to advocate for foster children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect. The CASA is a source of stability and solace to children during a confusing time that no child should ever have to endure.

As a CASA volunteer, you will be empowered by the courts to help make this dream a reality. You will not only bring positive change to the lives of these vulnerable children, but also their children and generations to come. Join us to learn more!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH • 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region Bay County Office 715 N. Euclid Avenue **Bay City, MI 48706**

RSVP Required Randy Dee Roberts CASA Program Director (989) 752-7226 rroberts@cancouncil.org



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CAN-DO **VOLUNTEER** HIGHLIGHT

For the past three years, Sailor Gaertner has been an avid CAN Council volunteer. Willing to take on many different projects, Sailor has been an essential part of our administrative team. Taking on an array of tasks including front office assistance, attending community outreach events, and even yardwork.

Sailor is always willing to get her hands dirty. During the hot summer months, she makes it a priority to help spruce up our yard, keeping our grounds looking topnotch for our visitors and neighbors.



"Volunteering with the CAN Council is something that I really enjoy because the people are awesome, it's a friendly environment, and I know they make differences in kid's lives," said Sailor.

With continual willingness to volunteer whenever she can, Sailor is always contacting us, seeking ways she can help move our mission forward. Thank you, Sailor, for helping to build a community where children are free from abuse and neglect!

Out with the Old, In with the New

On December 13th, the CAN Council celebrated the donation of a former ambulance, thanks to Mobile Medical Response, Inc. (MMR). This ambulance once helped transport those in need of medical attention, and has since been transformed into a van to support CAN Council child abuse prevention efforts.



The CAN Council's greatest need for this van is to support the Safe Baby Program. The Safe Baby Program is a week-long experience for middle and high school students. It begins on Wednesday with a 45-minute presentation on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome which teaches that no amount of

alcohol is safe while pregnant. On Thursday, there is another 45-minute presentation on Safe Sleep, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and the true expectations of parenthood. The students are also educated on how to operate these realistic, computerized infant simulators that they will be caring for over the weekend. Finally, on Friday, the students receive their infant simulators. The simulators are picked up by CAN Council staff on Monday morning and diagnosed. Diagnosis will determine the students' scores by measuring the level of care as it is printed from each simulator. Honestly, it is the most "real" experience we can offer students as well as sending the message of "Never Ever Shake a Baby!"

In 2009, the CAN Council received a grant from HealthPlus of Michigan and the Frank N. Andersen Foundation to purchase additional infant simulators for the Safe Baby Program. Now having to transport dozens of simulators to schools each week soon became an issue for staff.



Having to make multiple trips to the school was time-consuming and inefficient. After speaking with MMR, the first van was donated. Lasting an incredible eight years and over 300,000 miles, the van inevitably began to have problems. MMR continued to be a great partner and service it as much as possible, but eventually deemed it no longer safe to drive.



From transporting up to 75 infant simulators to community schools, to supporting local outreach events, this new van will certainly fill a void. Without this van, the prevention programs would be less efficient and unable to reach as many people; CAN Council staff may not be able to continue to provide programs and services directly to the community.

"We've been fortunate enough to have the help of Mobile Medical Response, Inc. in getting a new "CAN Van" in support of our prevention efforts, as well as having help from our talented partners at **AGP & Associates, Inc.** in creating an eye-catching design. Zentx Media Group, Inc. was also a critical part in getting the van wrapped, and we are so excited to have this newer, eyecatching van!" says Suzanne Greenberg, CAN Council President/CEO.



YOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Winter 2018

Help protect our children and strengthen femilies! The CAN Council depends on your volunteer support to build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect. Please consider representing the CAN Council at some of the following:



Date: Saturday, February 24th Event: Femily Winter Festival

Location: Bay City Town Center (Bay City Mail)

Help: CAN Booth, Children's Activity

Date: Saturday, March 3rd
Event: Seginaw Spirit 50/50 Ticket Selling
Location: Dow Event Center, Saginaw
Help: Selling 50/50 Tickets

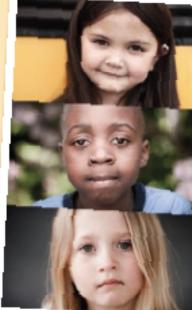
Date: Sunday, March 18th Event: Seginaw Spirit 50/50 Ticket Selling Location: Dow Event Center, Saginaw Help: Selling 50/50 Tickets

Are you ready to change a child's life?

- Every abused or neglected child needs a caring, consistent, adult to advocate for his or her well-being. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a volunteer who devotes time to advocate for foster children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect.
- The CAN Council provides a nationally-accredited training to CASA volunteers, who will then be appointed by a family court judge to serve as a voice for the child.
- The CASA is a source of stability and solace to children during a confusing time that no child should ever have to endure.
- Requirements state that you must be 21 years of age, pass an extensive background check, and have the flexibility in your schedule to advocate for the children you are assigned to.
- Nobody longs for a safe and loving family more than a child in foster care. As a
 CASA volunteer, you are empowered by the courts to help make this dream a
 reality. You will not only bring positive change to the lives of these vulnerable
 children, but also their children and generations to come.



If you would like more information about becoming a CASA volun contact CASA Program Director, Randy D. Roberts, by calling: (989)



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CAN Council Recognized as a Michigan Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace

The CAN Council was recently recognized as a Michigan Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace, thanks to the **Michigan Breastfeeding Network**.

The CAN Council recognizes that breastfeeding is the "gold standard" for infant feeding and is supportive of breastfeeding mothers with a milk expression (pumping) room and break time to pump when they return back to work or visit. "We want our employees and visiting moms to know that we support their decision to breastfeed," said **Suzanne Greenberg**, CAN Council President/CEO. "We are extremely pleased to be designated as a Michigan Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace."



Mothers are the fastest growing segment in the U.S. labor force and with it comes the need for lactation support when they return to work. The CAN Council recognizes that breastfeeding is good for babies as it protects infants from many significant and chronic diseases and providing benefits that last

a lifetime. Breastfeeding is good for mothers by decreasing their risk of Type 2 Diabetes as well as the risk of breast, uterine, and ovarian cancers.

"When I heard about the Michigan Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Award, I knew that I needed to nominate the CAN Council because of their support for new moms like me, returning to work," said **Steffanie Good**, CAN Council Administrative Assistant. "It's great to be a part of an organization that encourages what is best for our children."

The Shepard Family Brings the Popcorn

Bubbly tunes like 'Popcorn' by Hot Butter and classics like 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' by Burl Ives were piped through the airwaves, as visitors from all over Michigan enjoyed new displays at the annual *Freeland Lights* show.

For over a decade, **the Shepard family** has been delighting viewers with an amazing light show. Over 100,000 Christmas lights lit up Tittabawassee Township Park from Thanksgiving to New Years Eve with viewers able to watch the show from the warmth of their car.



Although the show is free, donations are encouraged to benefit the CAN Council and the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity's programs and services right here in our community. Thanks to everyone who ventured out to see the show!

Holiday Magic

This holiday season, 191 children and their families received a bit of "magic" thanks to numerous CAN Council friends. Thank you for helping make the holidays special for so many!



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Leads Group, Bay County Public Libraries, Book Warehouse, CAN Council employees, Cumulus Media Group (A Clean Home for the Holidays), Delta College, Dow, Duperon Corporation, Gruenberger Family, Heritage High School, Kehres Health & Chiropractic, Patty Larson, Meeting Professionals International Michigan Chapter, Ellen Meyer, Nikki's Day Care, Nouvel High School, Piecemakers Quilt Guild, Sharon Remer, Saginaw Bay Yacht Club, Saginaw County Medical Society (Annual Jingle Mingle), SERVPRO, St. John's Episcopal Church, Tina & Kaitlyn Szarenski, Barbara Tomcal, and WKCQ/McDonald Broadcasting.

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Ellen Hatcher In memory of Joan Gunn

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Honorariums

David & Tammy Bernier Honoring their grandchildren, Charlie, Claire, Ella, Grace, Miles, Olivia, Penelope, Ryan, & Sophia

Dr. William Mason, DDS Honoring CAN Council for the Holiday Season

Cindy & Rick Morley Honoring Moe Erskine & CAN Council's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

Graczyk-Dijak Financial Group Honoring their clients' birthdays

Anonymous Honoring Angela Garner

Mimi Bell Honoring Karen & Steve Gerhardt

Laura Billings Barbara Brody **Connie Clements** Laurie Czymbor Frankenmuth Credit Union **Amy Kanouse** Colleen Makl Jeanne Meddaugh Tamara Mickus Jill Moore **Scott Mossner** James & Lori Neumeyer Karen Palmer Kay Ann Palmer **Debbra Varley** Honoring Eric & Carli Neumeyer's wedding

James Rozek Honoring Scott Rozek & Deidre Waters

Emma McCarthy Honoring the Taylor Family



Every 16 minutes, a child in Michigan is a victim of child abuse or neglect.

By donating to the Children's Trust Fund on your state income tax form, you can help prevent child abuse and neglect in Michigan. It's a simple way to protect Michigan's children. All new contributions stay in your county to support child abuse and neglect prevention.

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Look for CTF on your Michigan Tax Form 4642 and check to protect.